Speak the Gospel to Them …
Following the Example of Jesus
John 4:1-42

IDENTIFY WITH THE WOMAN

1. We Were Outsiders (1-8)

4 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than
John [2](although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), [3] he left Judea and departed again for
Galilee. [4] And he had to pass through Samaria. [5] So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field
that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. [6] Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey,
was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.
[7] A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." [8] (For his disciples had
gone away into the city to buy food.)

2. We Were Thirsty (9-10)

[9] The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of
Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) [10] Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God,
and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you
living water."

3. We Were Blind (11-15)

[11] The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get
that living water? [12] Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did
his sons and his livestock." [13] Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, [14] but
whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will
become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." [15] The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water,
so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

[37] On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me
and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living
water.' " [39] Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the
Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39)

4. We Were Immoral (16-19)

[16] Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." [17] The woman answered him, "I have no
husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; [18] for you have had five husbands,
and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." [19] The woman said to him, "Sir, I
perceive that you are a prophet.

5. We Weren't True Worshipers (20-24)

[20] Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." [21] Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. [22] You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. [23] But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

6. We Met the Messiah (25-42)

[25] The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." [26] Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

[27] Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" [28] So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, [29] "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" [30] They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Rosaria Butterfield:

I tried to toss the Bible and all of its teachings in the trash — I really tried. But I kept reading it, reading it not just for pleasure, but reading it because I was engaged in a research program trying to refute the religious right from a lesbian feminist perspective. . . . After my second or third, maybe fourth, pass through the entire Bible something started to happen. The Bible got to be bigger inside me than I. And it absolutely overflowed into my world. I really fought against it. And then one Sunday morning, no different from any other Sunday morning, I rose from the bed of my lesbian lover, and an hour later I sat in a pew at the Syracuse Reformed Presbyterian Church. I went there very conspicuous of the fact that I didn't fit in. But I really had to confront this God.

"This was my conversion in a nutshell: I lost everything but the dog."

IMITATE THE SAVIOR

[31] Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." [32] But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." [33] So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" [34] Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

Charles Spurgeon:

Some of you good people, who do nothing except go to public meetings, the Bible readings, and prophetic conferences, and other forms of spiritual dissipation, would be a good deal better Christians if you would look after the poor and needy around you. If you would just tuck up your sleeves for work, and go and tell the Gospel to dying men, you would find your spiritual health mightily restored, for very much of the sickness of Christians comes through their having nothing to do. All feeding and no working makes men spiritual dyspeptics. Be idle, careless, with nothing to live for, nothing to care for, no sinner to pray for, no backslider to lead back to the cross, no trembler to encourage, no little child to tell of a Savior, no grey-headed man to enlighten in the things of God, no object, in fact, to live for; and

who wonders if you begin to groan, and to murmur, and to look within, until you are ready to die of despair?

35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and
see that the fields are white for harvest. 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for
eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and
another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered
into their labor."
39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I
ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two
days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of
what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the
world."

1. **Get Where People Are**

2. **Cross Cultural Barriers**

- Who do some Christians in your town consider Samaritans? Why do you think Christians dislike them?
- What parts of town are considered Samaria – that people avoid?
- What are the common sins of your Samaritans?
- What are the commons of your Samaritans?
- What are the Jacob's wells in your city, or the pagan places where the Samaritans hang out?
- What did Jesus' disciples think when he was talking to the Samaritan woman? What will other Christians say about you if you love across the lines?
- Whey was the woman later a tremendous evangelist? How might the Samaritans become the great evangelists?

3. **Start Conversations in Authentic Ways**

4. **Be Patient and Compassionate**

5. **Discuss Sin, Grace, and Eternal Life through Christ**

6. **Trust in God's Power to Save**